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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2012

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, II
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
U.S. Department of Transportation
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

RE: Nomination of John O'Leary, Director, Logistics Services, Arkema Inc.
Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC)
Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 3)

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I write to you today in strong support of the nomination of Mr. John O'Leary, Director, Logistics Services for Arkema, Inc., for a position on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC).

Mr. O'Leary manages and supports all of Arkema's shipping activities, which includes significant rail transportation. Arkema is the U.S. subsidiary of a global chemical company, which operates thirty manufacturing and research facilities in 17 states, including a key facility in Axis, Alabama, and provides jobs to over 2,600 employees across the United States. Shipments of both hazardous (including TIH chemicals) and non-hazardous chemicals by rail are critical to Arkema's business, which includes manufacturing key products and materials that are important to multiple industries.

Mr. O'Leary has thirty-five years experience in rail transportation, logistics and shipping. If selected to serve on the RSTAC, I am confident he would be immensely helpful to the STB and the RSTAC. He will be able to draw on the experience and knowledge he has gained while serving in various key supply chain positions within Arkema and its predecessor companies. These positions include materials management, customer service and purchasing.

Mr. O'Leary also has significant experience in working on rail regulations and policy development. He has previously testified before the STB and the Federal Railroad Administration on rail and shipper issues. In addition, he currently serves on the American Chemistry Council's Distribution Committee, which reviews and analyzes rail and transportation issues affecting the chemical manufacturing industry. Most notably, he previously served as president of the National Freight Transportation Association.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support Mr. O'Leary's nomination to the RSTAC. Thank you for your consideration. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


Jo Bonner
Member of Congress